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RYDE, I.W.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1968

including the separate Report of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1968

(as constituted at 23rd May, 1968)

The Mayor—ALDERMAN E. T. CLEAVER, J.P.

Alderman Sutton (*Chairman*)

Councillor Colledge

Councillor Morey (*Vice-Chairman*)

Councillor Copper

Councillor Allen

Councillor Holland

Councillor Burridge

Councillor Lewis

Councillor Butler

Councillor Minghella

Councillor Cavilla

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS 1968

Dr. D. W. QUANTRILL, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

D.T.M. & H., D.(OBST.), R.C.O.G.

Office: County Hall, Newport

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Senior Public Health Inspector

S. DUNMORE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

L. N. JORDAN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant

N. A. HILLIER, B.E.M.

Clerk

Miss D. G. BOYCE

Rodent Operator

W. A. GOBLE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
5 LIND STREET,
RYDE, I.W.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Council*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1968 in accordance with the direction of the Minister of Health.

The birth rate fell slightly from 15·7 to 12·6. Out of the two-hundred and eighty children born to women residents of the Borough, thirty-four were illegitimate, i.e. 12·1 per cent. This was the sixth year in succession that more than one child in ten was born out of wedlock. These high rates for Ryde are of some concern, as children born under these circumstances do not have the same chance to develop physically or mentally as a child born legitimately.

The death rate in the Borough showed no significant change. Out of ten infant deaths four were born illegitimately. The main causes of death were again stroke, coronary disease and cancer.

As regards notifiable infectious diseases there is nothing of importance to report. Only twenty-four cases of measles were recorded. There were a number of cases of suspected dysentery which on investigation were considered to be of virus origin and unrelated to poor hygiene or sanitation. In fact, during the year, the standards of food hygiene in the town continued to improve and the food shops in Ryde have a standard of hygiene that compares favourably with any town that I have visited on the mainland.

In the Spring there was an epidemic of a non-notifiable disease—German Measles. This epidemic caused concern, as any woman in early pregnancy contracting the disease could have given birth, later on, to a defective child. I am happy to report that so far no such consequences have been recorded and credit for this must be given to the vigilance of local doctors and midwives, which enabled appropriate advice to be given to those at risk.

During the year the Isle of Wight Indoor Swimming Pool Association continued its campaign to establish an indoor swimming bath. If this is successful it will enable more children and adults to learn how to swim and thereby help to eliminate accidents from drowning. Furthermore, an indoor bath would provide an additional means of healthy recreation. Such a campaign is worthy of the support of all those concerned with health and accident prevention.

During the year the Council again devoted much attention to proposals for improved methods of refuse disposal. The open tip method is almost invariably associated with rats and flies and it is therefore hoped to provide a more modern and more hygienic procedure.

Towards the end of the year I was granted leave of absence to lead a medical team concerned with relief work in the Nigerian/Biafran civil war. This was a most rewarding and interesting venture and the Council's approval, which enabled me to go, was greatly appreciated. I am also grateful to Dr. A. M. Batten for so capably holding the fort for me during my absence.

Finally I should like to thank the Chairman and Committee for the encouragement and support they have given me throughout the year.

Yours faithfully,

D. W. QUANTRILL

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS

(1) GENERAL

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	7,876
No. of inhabited dwelling houses according to rate books (as at 31/3/69)	...	...	...	...	8,500
Rateable value (as at 31/3/69)	...	...	...	...	£855,778
Sum represented by 1d. rate (1968/69)	...	...	...	...	£3,411
Rainfall	...	...	...	...	32.39 inches
Sunshine	...	...	...	...	1656.8 hours

(2) VITAL

Population (Registrar's Figure)	...	...	...	...	22,220
Births	M	F			
No. of live legitimate births	137	143	...	...	280
No. of live illegitimate births	19	15	...	...	34
Live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	12.6
Comparative factor (births)	...	...	...	...	1.23
Comparative Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	15.5
Live Birth Rate England and Wales	...	...	...	...	16.9 (Prov.)
Total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	283
	M	F			
No. of legitimate stillbirths	2	1	...	...	3
No. of illegitimate stillbirths	—	—	...	...	—
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	10.6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	...	12.1
Deaths	M	F			
Total number of deaths	185	156	...	...	341
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	15.3
Comparative factor (deaths)	...	...	...	...	0.73
Comparative death rate	...	...	...	...	11.2
Death rate England and Wales	...	...	...	...	11.9 (Prov.)
No. of deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year of age	M 4	F 2	...	...	6

No. of deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year of age	M	F		
	3	1	...	4
Death rate all infants per 1,000 live births			...	35·7
Death rate legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	24·4
Death rate illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	117·6
Infant Mortality Rate (England and Wales)			18·0	(Prov.)
Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			...	28·6
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate			...	25·0
Perinatal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	35·3
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)			...	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths				Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH

<i>Cause</i>			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Syphilis and its Sequelae	...	...	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	...	...	2	—
„ „ Lung, Bronchus	...	...	14	3
„ „ Breast	...	...	—	3
„ „ Uterus	...	...	—	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	...	...	24	18
Diabetes Mellitus	...	...	3	1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	...	...	1	—
Anaemias	...	...	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	...	...	3	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	...	...	47	28
Other forms of Heart Disease	...	...	18	24
Cerebrovascular Disease	...	...	17	38
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	7	5
Influenza	...	...	—	1
Pneumonia	...	...	9	5
Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	...	12	1
Asthma	...	...	—	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	—	3
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	4	—
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	...	...	1	2

Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	—	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	...	...	...	2	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	2	—
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	...	...	...	2	3
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	...	...	...	—	2
Congenital Anomalies	...	...	...	3	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	...	...	...	1	—
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	...	...	...	2	2
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	...	...	...	1	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	3	1
All other accidents	...	...	...	4	2
Suicide and Self-Inflicted injuries	...	...	...	—	2
All other External Causes	...	...	...	1	—
<i>Total all causes</i>				<hr/> 185 <hr/>	<hr/> 156 <hr/>

Prevalence of Infectious and other Diseases

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Meningitis (Unspecified)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	—	—	—
Measles	24	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Dysentery	58	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	2	—
Tuberculosis (Meninges and C.N.S.)	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (other)	—	—	—
Totals	87	2	—

Age at Date of Notification

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Malaria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Meningococcal Infection	Meningitis (Unspecified)	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	Tuberculosis (Meninges and C.N.S.)	Tuberculosis (Other)	Paratyphoid Fever
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	24	—	—	—	58	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

Total number of outbreaks	...	...	Nil
Number of sporadic cases	...	...	Nil
Number of deaths	...	...	Nil

Infectious and Other Diseases Return from Head Teachers of Schools

Mumps	...	...	...	20
Chickenpox	...	...	...	108
German Measles	...	...	...	375
Measles	...	...	...	5
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	3
Coughs and Colds	...	...	...	Nil
Impetigo	...	...	...	1
Tonsilitis	...	...	...	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	4
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1
				518

Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944

Number of samples taken during 1968	...	...	74
Number of samples found to be T.B. positive	...	...	Nil
Number of samples in which <i>Brucella Abortus</i> was isolated	...	...	Nil

Tuberculosis, 1968

Age Periods	Totals	New Cases				Totals	Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 „ 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 „ 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 „ 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 „ 25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 „ 35	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 „ 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 „ 55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 „ 65	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 „ 75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 and over	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4*	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

* Including one transfer from the mainland.

**Table showing the number of new cases and deaths from
Tuberculosis during the period 1958 - 1968**

		<i>New Cases</i>			<i>Deaths</i>		
		Pulm.	Non.-Pulm.	Total	Pulm.	Non.-Pulm.	Total
1958	...	11	1	12	2	—	2
1959	...	12	3	15	1	—	1
1960	...	17	—	17	2	—	2
1961	...	9	—	9	1	—	1
1962	...	11	1	12	1	—	1
1963	...	8	2	10	3	—	3
1964	...	10	—	10	1	—	1
1965	...	5	1	6	1	—	1
1966	...	5	—	5	—	—	—
1967	...	2	1	3	—	1	1
1968	...	4	3	7	—	—	—

Child Welfare Clinics

<i>Name of Clinic</i>		<i>Place where held</i>	<i>How often held</i>
Ryde	...	Well Street	Every Wednesday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
*Binstead	...	The Institute	Every Tuesday 2.30 p.m.
St. Helens	...	Church Institute	First Thursday 2.45 p.m.

* Closed June 1968.

Factories Act, 1937

Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1968 for the Borough of Ryde, in the County of the Isle of Wight.

1. **Inspections** for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written notices	No. of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	118	36	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	125	39	1	—

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	3	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	4	—	2	—

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Council*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit herewith my nineteenth Annual Report, Dr. Quantrill, Medical Officer of Health, having authorised publication as a separate part of his Report.

This report is for the Borough's centenary year, and it would have been interesting to have made some comparisons and contrasts in the local environmental health during the hundred years, but records in the form of Medical Officers' reports are only available back to 1915—a few interesting items will be quoted from these reports of fifty years ago.

This report will be, as in past years, divided into four sections.

In a year which has followed very much the pattern of recent years, I find it difficult, after eighteen annual reports, to comment upon much the same subjects in a new and interesting vein.

It is also my pleasure to express my sincere thanks for the nineteenth time, and in this case without variation, to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the Housing Committee, the Medical Officer of Health, and Chief Officers and their staffs for their generous support. My grateful thanks as always go to my Assistant, Mr. L. Jordan, who has been with me here throughout the nineteen years, and manages the main town area with clockwork efficiency. Mr. Hillier, B.E.M., the Department's Technical Assistant, has settled in quite happily, and his appointment is proving a most successful decision. Mr. Goble is very well known throughout the Borough and his assistance appreciated by all those business proprietors and householders who have cause to seek his help in dealing with rodent problems. Miss Boyce has carried out the usual office routine administration, and Mr. Hillier has come to her assistance whenever the pressure of work has built up, to prevent a backflow of office work accumulating.

Before the current report is set out, a few extracts of some of the health conditions which existed a mere fifty years ago are given, but, before doing so, it is of interest to remind you that, until the Borough was extended, in 1931, to its present

size of 7,876 acres, it comprised a mere 820 acres, extending roughly from Binstead Brook on the west side, to the Smallbrook on the East side, with the Rural District Council in control southwards of Bettesworth Road. Its population in 1919 was 10,608—probably greater for that area than it is today.

There have been only three sanitary inspectors since 1865! (1885 - 1921 Mr. J. Eldridge; 1921 - 1950 Mr. A. Ainley—now in his mid-eighties, fit and well; 1950 - to date, myself, under the title of Senior Public Health Inspector). Incidentally, too, there have only been three different Chairmen since I took over my position (1950), namely the late Alderman Russell, followed by Alderman Ramage, and latterly to date, Alderman Sutton.

The first Report (1915) to hand, by Dr. P. D. Turner (a local practitioner), was kept as brief as possible in accordance with instructions by the Council! In 1915 there was a considerable dispute between the Borough and the Rural District Council as to which authority was polluting the Binstead Brook—no decision reached! There was an annual death rate of 15 from tuberculosis and 16 from bronchitis and pneumonia; the Borough had an isolation hospital at Smallbrook and admitted 13 cases of diphtheria and 13 of scarlet fever.

In 1919 the Ministry of Health called for a more comprehensive report than heretofore: 118 persons were on Poor Relief: there was no manufacture. “The richer classes are mostly retired and independent gentry—the poorer classes are mainly dependent for a livelihood on them and the trades people”. 160 cows are kept within the Borough! The Council allocated £7 10s. 0d. per month to provide milk to necessitous mothers! There was an outcry locally concerning the proximity of the smallpox isolation hospital at Ashe, to Ryde—it was advocated that isolation of patients should be in the wide open spaces at the top of the Downs! 22 working class houses stood empty. 1,075 houses were under £12 Rateable Value (almost half the total number in the Borough). No working class houses were built or under construction. Low-lying land in the eastern valley (Recreation Ground, Strand, area) has been subject to flooding! Water supply, due to seasonal drought, had to be turned off at nights during a period of six weeks.

Yours faithfully,

STANLEY DUNMORE

Senior Public Health Inspector

Section I—Sanitary Circumstances

Complaints

322 (259) general complaints were received and dealt with during the year. This figure does not include complaints concerning rodent infestations.

Water Supply

The I.W. River and Water Authority are the body responsible for the provision of water supplies throughout the Island, and an adequate supply of pure and wholesome water was maintained to all parts of the Borough throughout the year.

No contamination of supplies has occurred.

There are approximately 8,500 inhabited dwellings in the Borough, with a population of 22,220. All houses, etc., are connected direct to the mains supplies and no wells or stand-pipes are in use.

Mains water is supplied to:—

Domestic Premises	...	...	...	8,148
Commercial Premises	...	...	...	1,246
Industrial Undertakings	...	...	...	28
Other Undertakings	...	...	...	8
Entertainment and Recreational Premises	...			54
Educational and Cultural Premises	...	...		21
Crown Premises	...	...	...	26
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	201
				<hr/> 9,732 <hr/>

The last available chemical analysis indicated that the fluoride content was less than 0·1 p.p.m.

Drainage Matters

The bulk of the Borough's foul drainage, and much of its surface water, is discharged, untreated, through long outfalls, well beyond low-water mark, into the strong currents of the Solent flowing eastwards into the open sea. The purification works serving St. Helens and Havenstreet have dealt satisfactorily with

the sewage of these localities. The scheme to sewer the Kite Hill and Fishbourne areas has been under construction during the year—the new sewers are now laid, but because of constructional and contractual difficulties which have arisen in connection with the new treatment works, completion of the scheme is likely to take a further year. The Borough Surveyor's pumping scheme to cope with the occasional flooding which has recurred throughout the years in the Strand locality has been finalised, and construction of the new pumphouse on the Esplanade is nearing completion.

Alterations or new drainage works relative to existing buildings are supervised by myself or Mr. Jordan. Forty-nine such works have been supervised, including six which necessitated action under Section 24, Public Health Act, 1936.

Public Cleansing

This service is operated by the Borough Surveyor. All districts in the Borough receive at least a once-weekly collection, and a trade refuse collection service is also provided.

An estimated total of 9,000 tons was collected and dumped at the tip near Nettlestone. The Public Health Committee fully appreciate that the tip's life is now very limited, and have accepted the view that a pulverisation plant at the present tip will have to be provided to deal with the increasing tonnage. However, the important question as to make of plant and getting Ministry approval have yet to be concluded.

The tip has received regular checks by the Rodent Operative, and during the summer, exposed surfaces of refuse received regular spraying with suitable insecticides.

Revenue from salvaged paper and cardboard during the year amounted to £1,343, and £336 from the sale of rags and metals. A salvage incentive scheme operates for the Council's refuse collection staff.

Verminous Premises

Disinfestations were carried out at 67 premises. Most of the infestations were of a minor nature, none proved difficult to deal with, and all were effectively eradicated. Infestations comprised 25—cockroaches, 20 fleas, 8—ants, 5—flies, 4—red spider mites, 1—silverfish, 1—bugs, 1—beetles and 1—woodlice. In addition, 51 wasps' nests and 4 bees' nests were destroyed during the summer and autumn.

Rodent Control

The rodent (rats and mice) destruction service is operated by the Department, which provides a contract service for 62 business premises and a free service for householders. Business premises not having a contract were treated if requested, and charged for work done. Mr. Goble, our Rodent Operator, again dealt efficiently with the necessary destruction work, and some details of what this involved are set out as follows:—

During the year, 524 complaints were received, and 4,336 visits were made for the purposes of treatments and routine inspections.

Council Properties			Dwellingshouses (including Council Houses)			Agricultural Premises			All other premises (including Business Premises)		
Inspected	Infested		Inspected	Infested		Inspected	Infested		Inspected	Infested	
	Rats	Mice		Rats	Mice		Rats	Mice		Rats	Mice
61	13	—	449	330	39	43	31	2	196	46	24

In general the control of rats and mice has resulted in a satisfactory reduction in the number of serious complaints: the majority were of a minor nature, and have been promptly dealt with, thus preventing more serious infestations developing.

Test baiting and subsequent poisoning of rats in the sewers has hitherto been an important feature in the yearly programme, and over the past years the number of sections found to be infested has steadily decreased as a result of these operations, so much so that for the last three years all the tests have proved negative. The Ministry suggest that in these circumstances the annual testing may be suspended for several years, but, should there be an outbreak of surface infestations in a particular area for which there is no apparent reason, treatment of sewers in that locality will be resumed.

Damage by mice has not been widespread, but an unusual treatment involving mouse activity in a church organ was brought to a successful conclusion before the instrument suffered serious damage.

A one-day refresher course organised by the Ministry of Agriculture proved to be both interesting in exchange of ideas and instructive in regard to the use of new poisons now officially approved.

Thanks to the co-operation of those concerned with the management of holiday camps and caravan parks, there has been a marked reduction in the number of rodents affecting these establishments.

Many complaints of pests other than rodents were investigated, and the majority were found either to be harmless or not to come within the scope of the department, but wherever possible advice was given.

The death of the County Pests Officer was much regretted. His interest in our activities, together with his helpful advice at all times was greatly appreciated, and, in welcoming his successor, the same degree of co-operation is confidently assured.

Caravans and Camping

The six camps situated in the Borough now all have permanent licences. None of the camps is very large, and all are in full accordance with conditions of licence. They have been operated very efficiently, and no complaints concerning them have been lodged.

There are four licensed tentage sites in the Borough. The sites, none of which is large, have proved popular—they meet the demands of campers because they are well sited and very well equipped as regards camp-site mod. cons.

The three large chalet type holiday establishments (Warners' Puckpool and St. Clare, and Nodes Holiday Centre) have again proved very popular and were excellently operated.

Swimming Pools

It is for the third time necessary for comment to be made concerning the Council's small paddling pool at the eastern end of the Canoe Lake, which has given the Borough Surveyor's Department problems because of the difficulty in maintaining the water in a reasonably pure state. The pool does not have a purifying system, and control of contamination is dependent upon dosing the pool with chlorine by hand.

All the samples taken and bacteriologically examined from the three large pools operated by the Holiday Camps proved satisfactory, and the operators of these pools are to be congratulated upon the consistently excellent standard they have maintained. One sample taken from the pool of a private hotel was below standard—this was corrected after investigation.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

The total number of premises registered under the Act as at 31st December, 1968, was 416. The number of different kinds registered are as follows:—

Retail Shops	...	...	219
Wholesale Departments <i>PREMISES</i>			19
Catering and Canteens	...		66
Fuel <i>DEPOTS</i>	...	...	—
Offices	...	...	112
			<hr/>
			416
			<hr/>

Eight-hundred and forty visits were made to registered premises.

The total number of persons employed in registered premises was 1,854—720 males and 1,134 females.

Nine accidents were reported—six were in shops, one in a wholesale stores, one in a catering establishment and one in an office. All the accidents were investigated but no breach of the Regulations was disclosed.

No applications have been made for exemptions.

Sixty-one Informal Notices were served on occupiers of premises for failing to comply with certain requirements of the Act. By the end of the year 96 per cent of such premises were in full compliance.

All premises in the Borough of Ryde that are known to be within the scope of the Act have now been registered and inspected.

Observation upon all business premises within the Borough continues, as experience has shown that quite often a change of ownership, or the opening of a new business is not notified, as required by Section 49 of the Act. This is invariably due in the main to ignorance of the Regulations, rather than neglect, on the part of those concerned.

As regards operation of the general provisions of the Act, the majority of deficiencies noted during this year's inspections were of a minor nature, some 61 informal notices being served.

The programme of checks to ensure that an adequate temperature was being maintained in registered premises was completed. As a result of the checks, additional heating appliances or new heating equipment have been installed in twenty premises.

Torn floor coverings, loose or unserviceable floorboards, continued to give greatest concern from a safety aspect. Four floor mounted refrigerator motors were fitted with guards, one very old unguarded bacon slicer was scrapped, and two meat slicers were fitted with guards as the outcome of observations raised on initial inspections.

Those registered premises that have not been inspected in the past two years are now being visited on a rotational basis.

A letter drawing attention to the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises (Hoists and Lifts) Regulations 1968, (with appended extracts from the Regulations, and a copy of the required report), was forwarded to the proprietors of all premises in the Borough known to be equipped with a hoist or lift, in order that as many of those concerned as possible will be aware of the new Regulations well in advance.

Four complaints were received from employees regarding working conditions, each was investigated, two were found to be justified and action was taken to remedy the cause of dissatisfaction.

Nine accidents were reported during 1968. It is very likely however that accidents which should be reported, but which are of a minor nature, are not being notified. A reminder of the obligation to report all accidents resulting in loss of life, or which disable any person from carrying out his normal duties for more than three days is given to all employers, managers, etc., at the time of inspection or re-inspection of premises.

To summarise, I would state that the day-to-day administration of the Act continues to be satisfactory, with reasonable co-operation from proprietors of registered premises. A considerable improvement has been made in the safety, comfort and welfare of workers in Shops and Offices due to the inspections made, and informal notices served as a result. However, it is felt that much more could be done if wider publicity were given to the Act and its aims. After five years of implementation, the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act is not fully known, or understood, by a large percentage of managers and employees, or by a smaller number of employers, and the form of publicity required is that of a National basis.

Factories Acts, 1937 - 59 and 1961

There are 125 (124) premises registered as factories in the Borough, of which 118 (116) have power installed. With the exception of several purpose-built factories which have become established in recent years and engaged in light industry, the great majority of the factories are small.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no registered common lodging houses within the Borough.

Noise Abatement Act

Seven complaints lodged by residents referred to a specific noise in the vicinity of their properties, and these were investigated, the operators interviewed, and the problem resolved by informal action.

The complaints (one each) related to noisy factory machinery, noisy music from a nightclub and two private houses, barking dogs and domestic quarrels.

Summary of Inspections and Visits

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	154
Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	169
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Public Health Act						170
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc.				...		542
Work in Progress	...	...	...	...		195
Insanitary Houses and Rooms		...	...	...		26
Verminous Premises or Rooms		...	...	...		34
National Assistance Act		...	...	...		7
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...		8
Drainage Inspections and Tests	...	...	...	...		233
Septic Tanks, Cesspools, etc.	...	...	...	...		21
Camping Sites, Caravans, Tents and Houseboats				...		58
Stables, Piggeries, Poultry, etc.	...	...	...	...		12
Factories with Power	...	...	...	...		36
Factories without Power		...	...	...		3

Summary of Inspections and Visits—contd.

Out-workers' Rooms	...	...	...	...	—
Schools	...	...	...	...	3
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	...	840
Foreshores, Streams, etc.	...	...	...	...	18
Vacant Land and Dumps	...	...	...	...	67
Common Yards and Passages	...	...	...	...	7
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	31
Clean Air Act—Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	10
Rodent Infestations	...	...	...	...	9
Dangerous Structures	...	...	...	...	45
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	4
Noise Nuisances	...	...	...	...	17
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	209

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied

Drains and Sec. 24, Public Health Act, 1936, Sewers Cleared of Obstructions	...	...	...	47
Drains and Sec. 24, Public Health Act, 1936, Sewers Repaired, Reconstructed or Altered	...	...	...	49
Inspection Chambers Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	22
Cesspools Cleansed or Repaired	...	...	...	5
New Cesspools Constructed	...	...	...	2
Offensive, etc., Accumulations Removed	...	...	...	10
Dirty Premises Cleansed	...	...	...	2
Contraventions Remedied in Factories, etc.	...	...	...	3
Contraventions Remedied in Camping Sites, Caravans and Houseboats	...	...	...	3
Dangerous Structures made Safe or Demolished	...	...	...	6
Smoke Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	3
Animals—Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	3
Noise—Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	1

Section II—Housing

The Council's housing units now number 831, comprising 14 four-bedroomed, 462 three-bedroomed, 241 two-bedroomed, 48 one-bedroomed, and 66 bed/sitting-room units. A total of 33 new units were completed in Arundel Close and School Street, built to replace 22 "prefabs" in Arundel Close and 7 obsolete houses in School Street. During the year the construction of 48 Industrialised units was commenced at Slade Road, Oakfield—and at St. Helens the first post war housing project got under way, this comprises 16 one-bedroomed, and 8 bed/sitting-room units.

Mr. R. Lugg, who as the Council's Housing Manager retired early this year, was succeeded as the Council's Housing Officer by Mr. N. Cooper, who reports that he had a total of 397 applicants on his registers (221 for general housing and 176 for old people). The overall figure remains almost the same as in 1967—the general register figure is reduced, but the demands for accommodation by old people has shown a marked increase.

Despite the Credit Squeeze and other economic pressures the local building industry almost maintained last year's high rate of private house building. The Council's Building Inspector (Mr. R. Bartrum) reports that 176 houses were completed and 13 new units were provided as a result of conversions.

With the Credit Squeeze continuing to have considerable effect throughout the year, the number of advances made under the Council's S.D.A.A. Scheme remained at the low figure of 54 (56). In addition 19 Discretionary and 31 Standard Improvement Grants were approved. At least it is encouraging to see that the number of Improvement Grants issued has not fallen—this very valuable government grants facility to house owners is so very worthwhile but even now many remain unaware of its availability, although the scheme has been operating for a number of years.

The Oakfield Redevelopment Scheme had not made much progress by the end of the year, except that the Housing Committee through their Housing Officer have continued to rehouse occupiers of cottages within the proposed area whenever possible, and in particular from the very obsolete Council-owned cottages. Consultations are proceeding with the appropriate Government department regarding legal procedures which will be necessary to designate Clearance Areas within the proposed redevelopment

area. I remain confident that if and when this Oakfield area is completely cleared of its present old, unsightly and derelict properties the Council will have available for re-development, one of the finest positioned sites in the Borough, and I visualize the eventual appearance of a development which everyone will want to see and where all housing applicants will be happy and keen to live.

During the year, Closing Orders were made in respect of two "parts of buildings", and one house (comprising 5 flats subject to Closing Orders) was demolished.

Also, a comprehensive survey of all known basements to ascertain their present use, if any, was undertaken. This necessitated some 231 visits.

Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the Year

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	253
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	484

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints	97
Public Health Act	122
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Public Health Act	139
Housing Acts	131
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Housing Acts ...	92
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc. ...	649
Improvement Grants (Standard)	160
Improvement Grants (Discretionary)	63
Water Samples	1
Overcrowding	—
Rent Act	—
Miscellaneous (including survey figure)	305

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied

Artificial lighting provided	...	...	...	1
Chimneys and Stacks Repaired	...	...	...	1
Ceilings Repaired, Renewed or Provided	...	...	...	8
Dampness Abated	...	...	...	51
Doors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	8
Eaves, Gutters Repaired, Renewed or Provided	...	...	...	5
Fireplaces Repaired or Renewed or Means of Heating Provided	...	...	...	2
Floors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	10
Foodstores Provided	...	...	...	32
Roofs Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	27
Rainwater Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	3
Sinks Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	—
Sashcords Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	20
Stairs Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	1
Ventilation Provided	...	...	...	1
Walls (External) Re-pointed or Repaired	...	...	...	13
Walls (Internal) Repaired	...	...	...	14
Windows Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	25
Water Supplies Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	6
Waste Pipes Cleared, Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	3
New Bathrooms Provided	...	...	...	30
New W.C's Provided	...	...	...	28
W.C. Compartments Repaired	...	...	...	2
W.C. Pedestals Provided	...	...	...	28
W.C. Cisterns Provided, Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	28
Wash-hand Basins Provided	...	...	...	28
Hot Water Supplies Provided or Extended	...	...	...	31
New Dustbins Provided	...	...	...	4

Section III—Inspection and Supervision of Food

During the year there have not been any significant changes in the local food industry—i.e. food shops, restaurants, hotels, dairies, etc. These premises have received routine inspections, and in general the proprietors and managers have maintained a satisfactory standard of hygiene in their premises and given good quality service to their customers. The food trade becomes increasingly a packaged one, with a vast variety of foods available in ready-to-eat form, and the word “fresh” in its application to food nowadays is the interpretation one personally applies. The household deep freeze unit is becoming very much the “in thing” as a domestic appliance and a status symbol. Deep frozen foods are certainly a great asset to the retailers, hotels, etc., but in a locality such as Ryde I see no real advantage, economic or otherwise, in householders doing bulk buying of frozen foods. I am convinced that some shopkeepers, and certainly many housewives, think that a “fridge” is the complete answer to the problem of keeping food fresh and safe, which is not the case at all, and they should endeavour to make themselves familiar with keeping qualities of different foods, and, in the case of packaged frozen foods, to read and follow the instructions printed thereon. A refrigerator is only likely to be free from germs or bacteria if it is kept clean, well maintained and operated within its working limits.

The permanently employed labour force engaged in the local food industry has continued on the whole to be of a good and responsible calibre—this comment applies, too, to the students and overseas workers who assist during the busy holiday season, but it has to be accepted that employers have problems with some of the mainland seasonal workers who migrate to a pleasant sea-side locality to do the minimum of work, with a minimum of responsibility or interest in the job or place of employment.

Classification of Food Premises

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 1/67, the table sets out details of food premises subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, grouped in categories of trade carried on in them, including information relating to Regulations 16 and 19:—

Category	Total No. of premises	Fitted to comply with Reg. 16	Reg.19 Applicable	Fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Bakehouses	11	11	11	11
Fishmongers and Poulterers	8	8	8	8
Butchers	18	18	18	18
Dairies and Milk Distributors	30	—	—	—
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	12	12	12	12
Grocers	58	58	58	58
Restaurants, Cafes, etc.	60	60	60	60
Licensed Premises (Full Licences)	66	66	66	66
Bread and Cake Shops	12	12	12	12
Fried Fish Shops	10	10	10	10
Hotels	23	23	23	23
Private Hotels and Guest Houses	(a)100	(x)	100	(x)
Small Boarding Houses	(b)250	(y)	250	(y)
Clubs	5	—	—	—
Confectioners	25	25	—	—
Totals	688	303	628	278

(a) Estimated number of premises normally capable of sleeping 10 or more persons.

(b) Estimated number of premises normally capable of sleeping less than 10 persons—in operation for short periods only.

(x) Only a limited number of premises have been inspected—due to shortage of time and staff.

(y) No small boarding-houses have been inspected.

Food Complaints

During the year there has again been only a small number of complaints concerning food which was found to contain “foreign bodies”. Seven such complaints were investigated and reported upon to the Public Health Committee, who, after full consideration of all the circumstances, issued severe warnings to two of the offenders concerned. The seven cases are summarised as follows:—

1. Mould in cheese.
2. Piece of meat paper wrapping with purple lettering in sausage roll.
3. Piece of thermometer in sausage.
4. Pin in chocolate.
5. Metal nut in currant bun.
6. Wasp in doughnut.
7. Maggots in meat pie.

Meat and Other Foods—Inspection

There are no slaughterhouses within the Borough—supplies of fresh meat come from Newport and nearby mainland counties. There is one meat distribution depot established in the town. Quality of both meat and fish has continued to be good.

The following quantities of meat and tinned and packaged foods were condemned as unfit and destroyed:—

Meat (Home Killed)	...	...	...	31 lb.
Meat (Imported)	...	...	...	70 lb.
Poultry	...	...	...	121 lb.
Bacon	...	...	...	240 lb.
Cooked Meats	...	...	...	183 lb.
Beefburgers	...	...	...	30 lb.
Cake	...	...	...	23 lb.
Shellfish	...	...	...	16 lb.
Nuts	...	...	...	12 lb.
Ground Almonds	...	...	...	8 lb.
Sugar	...	...	...	8 lb.
Other Foods	...	...	...	4 lb.
Meat, Milk, Fruit, Vegetables, Fish, etc.	...	...	...	1463 (997) tins and jars

Contents of 5 refrigerated storage cabinets—breakdowns.

Poultry Inspection

- (i) There are two poultry processing establishments within the Borough. One which breeds all its young birds operates throughout the year. It is not a large factory and processes

an average of about 400 birds per week. The other is attached to a retail premises, and only operates occasionally at busy seasonal periods.

- (ii) 31 visits were made to the premises.
- (iii) The total number of birds processed was approximately 25,400.
- (iv) The birds processed were turkeys, ducks, chickens, capons and hens.
- (v) 1.05 per cent of the birds were rejected as unfit for human consumption.
- (vi) 1070 lb. of poultry was rejected as unfit for human consumption.
- (vii) Both establishments are adequately equipped. Both the operators of these premises have long experience in the poultry trade, and visits have been limited to periodic inspections. No disease problems occurred—rejections of birds were mainly confined to malformations, i.e. localised abscesses, etc. The operators are selective as regards their sources of supply, and suspect birds are rejected at that stage.

Food Analysis

During the year ended 31st December, 1968, the Food and Drugs Authority (I.W. County Council) officials took samples of various food commodities, and submitted them for analysis, and the Chief Officer has supplied the reports thereon, which are as follows:— *NOT AVAILABLE.*

Milk Supplies

All milk sampling for the Borough is undertaken by the I.W. County Council, since they are the responsible Food and Drugs Authority.

37 (36) distributors are registered, and 9 (9) premises registered as dairies. All milk sold is designated, the bulk of which is pasteurised and supplied from a factory in Newport, and the remainder is pasteurised in a small plant operated by a local dairyman.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 16

Premises registered under the above Act and Section, and which comply with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 are:—

Registered for the Manufacture of Sausages and/or Preserved Foods	...	...	...	...	27
Registered for the Manufacture, Storage/Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	124
					<hr/> 151 <hr/>

Ice Cream

123 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, the majority of which are shops which sell only wrapped ice cream manufactured by the national producers. There are four local manufacturers producing ice cream in small, satisfactorily equipped factories, who sell their products from their local shops and mobile vans which operate throughout the Island, and the national producers have storage depots on the Island, providing an excellent distribution service.

Bakehouses

13 (12) bakehouses were in operation, none of which is underground. Except for three firms who manufacture and deliver bread, the bakehouses are small and attached to shop premises.

Licensed Premises

There were 65 premises with full licence operating in the Borough. Management and operation of these premises has been of a good and satisfactory standard, and no complaints respecting them were received.

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	33
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	150
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	36
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	39

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.—contd.

Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	27
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	11
Grocers and Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	43
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	21
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	8
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	26
Restaurants and Kitchens	...	...	...	...	76
Food Stalls	...	...	...	...	60
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	23
Food Factories	...	...	...	...	34
Hotels	...	...	...	...	17
Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	88
Milk Distributors	...	...	...	...	10
Food Poisoning Enquiries	...	...	...	...	4
Infestations	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	46

Number of Contraventions Remedied in:—

Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	8
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	1
Grocers and Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	12
Restaurants and Kitchens	...	...	...	...	28
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	12
Hotels	...	...	...	...	1
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	1

Summary of Notices Served (Sections I, II and III)

Public Health Act (Informal)	...	...	...	104
Public Health Acts (Formal)	...	...	...	4
Housing Acts (Informal)	...	...	...	5
Housing Acts (Formal)	...	...	...	2
Factories Act	...	...	...	4
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	38
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	61

Section IV—Miscellaneous

Duties carried out in addition to those contained in the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, include the following:—

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936

During 1968/69, commencing 1st May, 1968, 40 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit. Total gallonage has now reached 77,400. This increase has mainly come about because, when old small tanks are replaced, invariably where space allows very much larger replacement tanks are installed. Three small tanks were taken out of service. Thirteen petroleum mixtures licences were issued. 154 visits were made to the petroleum establishments for the purpose of ascertaining that the Acts and Regulations were being complied with, and to inspect any work in connection with new installations, alterations or repairs.

Shops Act—Closing Hours

The Department is responsible for the compliance with “hours of closing” by shops within the Borough, as required by the Shops Act and several operative Closing Orders made by the Council. Increased supervision has been maintained this year, and 457 visits were made. In addition, some 21 advisory copies of the Shops Act, 1950, were distributed.

A referendum on Sunday Trading necessitated over 250 visits to premises affected—the result did not produce the necessary majority to extend the existing Trading Orders, which therefore continue unaltered.

Hackney Carriages and Drivers

The local byelaws governing hackney carriages licensed to ply for hire on the Council’s stands are administered by the Health Department, and here too increased supervision has been applied. 203 inspections were made of 52 licensed vehicles, and, following a request by the General Purposes Committee, additional “snap” inspections to check cleanliness were carried out on 621 vehicles.

83 drivers for these vehicles were also licensed by the Council, and subject to similar surveillance.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Four pet shops are licensed by the Council. These have received 8 visits and found to be operated in accordance with their licence conditions. The Council required the proprietors to supply pamphlets with animals sold, advising on their care.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

The same two establishments as previously licensed have had their licences renewed since both have continued to be satisfactorily operated and have maintained the required standards. One establishment boards small dogs and cats, and the other takes cats only.

Lectures and other Educational Activities

Mr. Jordan has continued his now annual assistance to the I.W. Group Hospital Management Committee by giving a series of lectures and demonstrations on public health subjects which are included in the syllabus of the examination courses taken by the student nurses.

I attended the Annual Conference of Public Health Inspectors and local authority representatives held at Blackpool in late September, and Mr. Jordan attended a Week-end School held at Oxford in April, organised by the Public Health Inspectors' Association.

